



CLAIMS CLUES

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AHCCCS PROVIDER PARTICIPATION TO BE TERMINATED FOR INACTIVITY

An AHCCCS provider's participation in the AHCCCS program may be terminated for any of several reasons, including inactivity.

Provider participation may be terminated if the provider does not submit a claim to the AHCCCS Administration or one of the AHCCCS-contracted health plans or program contractors within the past 24 months. If AHCCCS has not received a claim or an encounter for the past 24 months, these providers will be terminated effective April 2006.

A new registration packet will be required to reactivate providers who reapply following termination for inactivity.

Providers should refer to Chapter 3 of the AHCCCS Fee-For-Service Provider Manual for information on provider participation.

NATIONAL PROVIDER IDENTIFIER (NPI)

Effective January 23, 2004, the final rule regarding the National Provider Identifier (NPI) was published. CMS started assigning NPI numbers to providers last May. AHCCCS will require the NPI number to be used as the healthcare provider identifier in all claim submissions starting in May 2007.

An electronic mailbox has been established for providers to forward a copy of their NPI notification via email. **This email address can only accept copies of the statement mailed to the provider from the NPI enumerator.** The AHCCCS provider ID number also needs to be included in the email for identification purposes. The email address is NationalProviderID@azahcccs.gov. (cont.)

NATIONAL PROVIDER IDENTIFIER (NPI) (cont.)

Other options for providers to submit a copy of their NPI number notification include mailing or faxing a copy of the enumerator statement. The provider's name and AHCCCS provider ID number needs to be written on the copy. The information can be mailed or faxed to:

**AHCCCS
Provider Registration Unit
P O Box 25520
Phoenix, AZ 85002**

Fax: (602) 256-1474

NPI numbers will also be accepted via written notification. Notification must include the AHCCCS provider's name, AHCCCS provider ID number, NPI number and signature of the provider or authorized signer.

The agency is targeting January 1, 2007 as the optional claims and encounter submission date. Effective May 23, 2007, ALL claims and encounters must be submitted with the NPI when applicable.

Providers can obtain additional information about NPI at www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2. This site contains Frequently Asked Questions and other information related to the NPI and other HIPAA standards.

SELECTING ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS IS EASY AND CONVENIENT

AHCCCS has made it easy for providers to begin receiving electronic fee-for-service reimbursement. The electronic payment option processes payments using the Automated Clearing House (ACH) rather than issuing checks to providers. The ACH payment method enables providers to receive reimbursement more quickly. The Arizona Clearing House Association (ACHA) processes electronic payments directly to the provider's bank account through Bank of America, which functions as the state servicing bank.

BofA will make the electronic payment available to a provider's account one business day after the date AHCCCS transmits the ACH payments file to BofA. The ACH process offers several benefits to providers, including: (Cont.)

SELECTING ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS IS EASY AND CONVENIENT (cont.)

- Immediate availability of funds
- Fully traceable payments
- Elimination of mail and deposit delays
- Elimination of lost, stolen, or misplaced checks

To begin receiving ACH payments, a provider must complete Sections 2 and 3 of the ACH Vendor Authorization form.

This form is available on the AHCCCS website at www.ahcccs.state.az.us.

Click on the links for Plans and Providers. On the Quick Links for Health Plans and Providers page, click on Forms, and then scroll down to the ACH Vendor Authorization Form. The provider's financial institution must complete Section 4 of the form.

Submit the form to:

AHCCCS Finance Dept
Mail Drop 5400
P O Box 25399
Phoenix, AZ 85002

AHCCCS Finance staff will complete Section 1 of the form to initiate the electronic payment process. AHCCCS will process its normal weekly fee-for-service payment cycle and transmit the ACH payment data to BofA, which will transmit the information to AHCHA. On the settlement date of the electronic payment, the provider's financial institution will credit the provider's individual account.

Providers who have questions should call (602) 417-4052 or (602) 417-4543.